

Thank you for your comment, Brendan Hughes.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60107.

Comment Date: July 25, 2009 16:24:10PM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarM60107

First Name: Brendan  
Middle Initial:  
Last Name: Hughes  
Organization:  
Address: 61093 Prescott Trail  
Address 2:  
Address 3:  
City: Joshua Tree  
State: CA  
Zip: 92252  
Country: USA  
Email: jesusthedude@hotmail.com  
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record  
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

To Whom It May Concern,

The plans for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) appear to be fast tracking the release of certain environmentally sensitive public lands and opening them to solar energy development. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Department of Energy (DOE) need to consider the consequences of freeing up so much public land for only one use. This whole process needs to move at a slower pace in order to identify issues and impacts that will arise if this land is developed. Please consider the following issues:

1. The potential for specific negative impacts to each of the 24 study areas should be clearly explained. The maps fail to identify any local issues for the regions involved. These would include:

- \* Degradation of water resources from concentrated solar power
- \* Impacts to visual resources
- \* Impacts to flora and fauna
- \* Impacts to Federal/State Threatened and Endangered Species
- \* Impacts to cultural sites
- \* Impacts to Native American values
- \* Impacts to private property values
- \* Limiting access to public lands

2. The BLM and DOE should be scheduling public scoping meetings for communities near each of the 24 areas that are being considered for this proposal.

3. An Environmental Impact Statement should be written for each one of the 24 tracts of land considered in this proposal.

4. Viable alternatives exist in at least two forms. First, using rooftop solar (photovoltaics) on homes and businesses in population centers reduces line loss and creates more jobs than centralized projects. Also, the West is full of abandoned agricultural lands that are close to utility lines. These previously disturbed, degraded lands are sometimes in large blocks suitable for large solar power projects.

Thank you for your consideration.